

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, US, JA

SUBJECT: SANKO EFFORTS TO GAIN CONTROL OF JAPAN LINES

1. FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION (FMC) HAS REPORT SANKO LINES, PARAMOUNT NON- CONFERENCE JAPANESE SHIPPING LINE, ACTIVELY SEEKING CONTROL OF JAPAN LINES, ONE OF JAPAN' S BIG FIVE CONFERENCE STEAMSHIP LINES. AVAILABLE INFORMATION INDICATES SANKO HOLDS 43 PER CENT OF JAPAN LINES' STOCK AND FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES MAY EXERCISE INDIRECT CONTROL AT PRESENT. FMC UNDERSTANDS GOJ AND JAPANESE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT OPPOSED TO SANKO CONTROL AND MATTER SUBJECT OF DEBATE JAPANESE DIET AND WITHIN GOJ CIRCLES.

2. SANKO LINES' ACTIVITIES AS THEY AFFECT US FOREIGN COMMERCE ARE CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE COMMISSION. FMC CONCERNED AS SANKO CONTROL OF JAPAN LINES WOULD BE DISRUPTIVE FACTOR WITHIN CONFERENCE SYSTEMS IN US- JAPAN TRADES.

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3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT AND EMBASSY' S
ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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